



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

*Maryland's Social Services Agency*



### MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Dhr's Executive Director For Social Services Selected To Participate In The 2010-2011 Casey Fellows Program**

*Carnitra White one of 18 selected from pool of 100 national applicants to participate in prestigious program*

**BALTIMORE** – Carnitra D. White, Executive Director of the Maryland Department of Human Resources' (DHR) Social Services Administration will be a member of the 2010-2011 Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family Fellowship Class.

The prestigious Casey fellowship program selects and further develops the skills and experiences of accomplished public systems administrators, nonprofit leaders and community development professionals from across the country.

“Carnitra’s commitment and dedication to this work is evident in the accomplishments she has achieved in her short time as executive director of DHR’s Social Services Administration,” said DHR Secretary Brenda Donald, who was selected for the same fellowship program in 1995.

White was the youngest DHR executive appointee, at 39 years of age, when she assumed the position in 2009. She ascended to the position after serving as deputy executive director for four years. She is responsible for overseeing permanence, safety and well-being for the over 8,000 children in the state’s foster care system. She manages an annual operating budget of over \$600 million and a statewide workforce of 2,000.

White and her team have worked aggressively to put a statewide practice model into place that has successfully resulted in actively engaging families in a supportive and positive manner. This practice model has resulted in a 20 percent reduction in the number of children coming into the state’s care. In fiscal year 2009, DHR finalized adoptions for 770 children in foster care.

Established in 1993, the Casey Children and Family Fellowship program has had seven classes with a total of 75 participants who now comprise the Casey Fellows Alumni Network. This network provides opportunities for professional collaboration and conducts ongoing leadership development activities.

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- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary